Town of Stoddard

**SELECTMEN’S MEETING**

Monday, September 11, 2023

Town Hall – 7:00 PM

**MINUTES**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ATTENDEES INCLUED: Christopher Madden – Chair, Robert Fee – Member, Terri LaRoche – Member, Michelle Pong – Town Administrator, Vickie Williams – Secretary and Harry Power – Compliance Officer

GUESTS INCLUDE: Gerald Burns – Monadnock Sustainability Hub, Jason Cooper – Southwest Region Planning Commission, Dan Eaton, Bob Maden, Ray Durand, Joe Traniello and Geri Bailey

7:00 PM – COMMUNITY POWER PRESENTATION

Presenters: Gerald Burns – Monadnock Sustainability Hub and Jason Cooper – Southwest Region Planning Commission

Monadnock Sustainability Hub is a volunteer organization.

Southwest Region helps with information & technical assistance to town municipalities.

Jason Cooper – NH has the 4th highest price for electric paid by residential sector as of April 2023. Community Power allows local governments to advocate for the residents in their town. Instead of individual households fighting for rates. The town plan will be supplied by Stoddard Community Power. Town will set the default settings of pricing. Billing does not change.

Why does the town have to be a go between? – It requires agreement and plan with the broker for all residents. The town acts as a legislative body as community support.

Community Power also allows the community to be directly involved in the process. The community takes more control. Community Power allows lower pricing with the renewables (solar farms) in the plan the town chooses. Helps lower income housing. Goes by the State renewable portfolio standards 25.2% of electric must be renewable energy. Choice lies with the Town on renewable energy.

Gerald Burns – 6 communities already launched Community Power Plan. 3 more are working on it. 4 more plan on joining the Cheshire County Power Plan.

1. Move forward with local plan
2. Move forward joining the Cheshire County Plan
3. Don’t pursue Community Power

On local municipal plan, need to form a committee for community plan. Plan must be approved by Town Meeting, and approved by the State Public Committee.

If you choose to go with Cheshire County – no committee, no need to take to Town Meeting. Under the County Plan only need a majority vote with Selectboard. Not your own plan. Lessening of local control.

Service Providers – Company or non profit that have expertise they bargain and negotiate pricing. Develop plan, templates, public outreach and run the plan.

You have gone through the steps. You made a formal contract with service provider. You need to notify the residents of the town with their options. They can opt out of this plan. If they do not opt out they are enrolled automatically. Service Providers free to do contracts at various lengths. You can have a range of services that the resident can choose from besides the default range.

At this point in time this plan does not work for those who have solar power, the best choice for those with solar power is to opt out.

Public Utilities Commission is a five-year term appointed by the Governor.

The wires and poles are still maintained by Eversource.

Person can opt out at any time even after joining this plan if they do not like it. It was not known if Town could opt out after they selected to go with Community Power.

Person can opt out even if the town does not participate.

Infrastructure is a big issue with the Town of Stoddard.

The PPT Presenttion will be sent to Michelle to disseminate to the board.

SHOULD HAVE A PUBLIC MEETING ON THIS ISSUE – more info from selectboard before public meeting.

APPOINTMENTS:

Harry Power – Compliance Officer

420-14 – Tuthill – Barn – not living quarters. Meets the setbacks. PD $200.00

116-29 – Stenstrom – New Dwelling – has septic plan – PD $500.00

417-7 – Healy – New Home – Wetland Setback – has drawings - has road waiver (must be recorded at Registry of Deeds) Pd $500.00

TO BE SIGNED/APPROVED:

1. A/R and/or P/R Manifest
2. Minutes of 08/26/2023
3. Non-Public Minutes of 08/26/2023

**Chris Motioned to Accept the 8/26/2023 Minutes as Written. Bob Seconded. Motion Carried.**

**Chris Motioned to Accept the 8/26/2023 Non-Public Minutes as Written. Bob Seconded. Motion Carried.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Code of Conduct Policy – Tabled for more review

Nomination of Health Officer – Jan McGonagle

**Chris Motioned to Appoint Jan McGonagle as Health Officer. Bob Seconded. Motion Carried.**

Permission for Government car parked at offices – Selectboard has agreed that the government car can use the Town Hall/Gould House parking lot.

LBF –

Encroachment – working on it

Road Associations (Eva Lane & Walker Road) – working on it. Not using these roads for access.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Joe -

There is a log on King’s highway – Dave is on it.

Culvert is done on King’s highway but has not been paved the gravel is being eaten up.

Parking area Stoddard Rocks/Pioneer Lake, the culvert needs to be fixed. Bob will make the Conservation Commission aware of this problem.

NEW BUSINESS:

Additional email for Town Clerks Office – wants another email box. $600 for this year. They contacted IT directly. Get justification for this. To add a capital expense should go through Michelle. This item should go through Michelle.

Budget considerations –

Purchase of Grader or other DPW equipment – NO

Shed – Road to nowhere – town storage – Consider – Michelle will get quotes so this can be considered.

Health Officer Stipend – other towns use stipends to interest people in volunteer positions, fewer

people volunteering for work they do not get paid for. – Will look into what other towns are doing and decide if we want to pay stipends for some of those positions.

MISC CORRESPONDENCE:

Public Hearing Announcement

MCVP – not on warrant – want donation for services to Stoddard residents. Michelle asked them to get a petition for the warrant article for next town meeting.

Voting Machine – LHS machines are at end of service within the next year. The state will not contribute to the costs. 1/3 of the towns in New Hampshire does not use machines. The new machines will be $6,500.00 - $9,500.00 toward each machine. Can put on warrant for next year to put $10,000.00 in budget for 2024 – 2025 budget year.

TOWN ADMINISTRATION NOTES:

3 invoices for Conservation Commission from party for LBF – Must get approval from the whole conservation commission – not just one member of the board, and must be in the minutes with vote approval from the whole board. Have to vote on anything over $500.00 – anything under $500.00 can be signed by the chair only.

**Chris Motioned to Adjourn Public Meeting @ 9:14 PM. Bob Seconded. Motion Carried.**

**Chris Motioned to go into NON-PUBLIC RSA 91-A:3, II(c) @ 9:14 PM. Bob Seconded. All said yes. Motion Carried.**

**Chris Motioned to go back into Public Meeting @ 9:56 PM. Bob Seconded. Motion Carried.**

**Chris Motioned to Seal the Non-Public Meeting Minutes forever. Terri Seconded. Motion Carried.**

**Chris Motioned to Adjourn the Public Meeting @ 9:57 PM. Terri Seconded. Motion Carried.**

Submitted

Vickie Williams – Secretary

Chris Madden\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Robert Fee \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Terri LaRoche\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_